

MIKE VEREB  
Republican Leadership  
Caucus Secretary

Harrisburg Office  
146 Main Capitol  
PO Box 202150  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2150  
Phone: (717) 705-7164  
Fax: (717) 260-6522



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

150th Legislative District

District Office  
3950 Germantown Pike  
Suite 101  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
Phone: (610) 409-2615  
Fax: (610) 409-2619  
[www.RepVereb.com](http://www.RepVereb.com)  
[mvereb@pahousegop.com](mailto:mvereb@pahousegop.com)

July 15, 2014

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission Members,

My name is Mike Vereb. I am a Member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly representing the 150<sup>th</sup> District in Montgomery County, which is just west of Philadelphia. I am also House Majority Secretary and, as a member of the Leadership, participate fully in a wide range of issues.

I am writing in opposition to the Federal Communications Commission's proposal to reclassify the Internet to a Title II service. Altering the nature and the future course of the Internet to force it into the meaning of "common carrier" will do long-term damage to communities, businesses, and individuals in Pennsylvania and around the nation.

As a former township commissioner, I know well the types of issues that come before local elected officials. They are never at a loss of what should be topics for their meetings. Issues dealing with cable service, wireless service, DSL, fiber, and copper wire service were regularly on the agenda. From permitting laying cable under an existing street to siting a new cell phone tower, it was rare that we went very long without dealing with one or another service provider.

Like all local and state officials – those who live and work closest to their constituents – our primary focus was: Is this the best deal we can get for our citizens? We wanted the highest Internet speeds at the lowest price. And, immodestly, I believe we were successful in the vast majority of cases.

My fear, on behalf of State Legislators, Township Commissioners, Mayors and City Council Members is putting a major federal body, the FCC, between the elected officials and their constituents.

The Internet, as it has developed over the past two decades is one of the marvels of human civilization. From essentially a standing start in 1996, broadband access to the Internet is now

available to almost every household and business in America. Our constituents can take job training, check on, and apply for, local or state services, pay bills, work from home, or many other tasks using high speed access to the Internet. Also, younger Pennsylvanians can check on their parents using very inexpensive or free streaming video services. Conversely grandparents can have a video chat with the grandchildren without having to get on a train or plane to see them.

Businesses can find the best price from potential vendors, and can expand the markets for their goods or services from eastern Pennsylvania to any place in the world through the Internet.

Home health, and other government service providers, can check on their clients by using the Internet to actually “see” how a client is doing, rather than taking their word for it, and tele medicine is just in its infancy as to being able to track vital signs of an aging population.

And, yes, my constituents utilize the Internet to tell me what they think about the important issues that confront them, ask questions of me with regard to negotiating their way through a license or permitting process, or a host of other reasons to contact their State Representative.

I mention these uses to demonstrate just a small swath of the vast continuum of uses of modern broadband access to the Internet. The Internet, over the past 18 years, has gone from being a tool for governments and academic institutions, to a toy for hobbyists, to a basic part of American life. And, it has done this with a minimum of having to deal with, what I believe would be, innovation-crushing rules and regulations if it were reclassified.

As an elected official I have learned the lesson: Keeping an eye on something is not the same as regulating it.

The Internet is such a service – an information service – that is functioning very well, indeed.

Sincerely,



Representative Mike Vereb

150<sup>th</sup> Legislative District